

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 NEAE-00 OC-05 CCO-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

ACDA-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-01 SCA-01 /064 W

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O 071505Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6926

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, AL, MA, UN

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS

REF: MADRID 7787

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR AND I MET MID-DAY NOVEMBER 7 TO DISCUSS SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS. IN REVIEW OF HIS NOVEMBER 6 CONVERSATION WITH BENHIMA (REFTEL), SPANISH AMBASSADOR SAID HIS REPORT ON BENHIMA'S REMARKS HAD BEEN MISUSED WITHIN GOS. WHILE HE CONFIRMED GIST OF BENHIMA'S STATEMENTS ALONG LINES REFTEL, HE UNDERLINED THAT THIS HAD BEEN JUST ONE OF A SERIES OF UNOFFICIAL BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS WITH BENHIMA. HIS REPORT TO MADRID, HE ELABORATED, HAD NOT BEEN DESIGNED TO HAVE THE EFFECT IT HAD HAD OF MAKING IT LOOK AS THOUGH MOROCCANS HAD PRESENTED AN ULTIMATUM. HE HAD ASKED MADRID TO PASS BENHIMA'S REMARKS TO SPANISH UN DELEGATION, BUT ONLY FOR INFORMATION. IN ABSENCE DE PINIES, ACTING SPANISH REP HAD UNHELPFULLY MADE THEM PUBLIC. A STATEMENT WOULD BE RELEASED IMMINENTLY IN MADRID, RABAT AND NEW YORK DENYING ANY MOROCCAN ULTIMATUM, HE SAID.

2. NOTING TODAY'S INERTIA IN SAHARA MARCH AND CONTINUING GOM-GOS CONTACTS, SPANISH AMB SAID THERE WAS STILL TIME FOR ACCOMMODATION,
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BUT IT URNNING OUT FAST. A FACTION IN MADRID "FOR ITS OWN REASONS"

WANTED TO KEEP ALGERIA IN NEGOTIATING PICTURE, AND IF THIS FACTION
PREVAILED THIS COULD CAUSE A DISASTER, HE ASSERTED. HE ALSO
SAW RISK THAT MOROCCANS MIGHT BECOME OVER-CONFIDENT AND DEMAND
TOO MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPANISH CONCESSIONS.

3. SPANISH AMB SAID THAT SPANISH CITIZENS IN MOROCCO HAD BEEN
TOLD THEY SHOULD FEEL FREE TO LEAVE COUNTRY IF THEY WERE NERVOUS,
BUT THAT SPANISH EMBASSY NOT ORGANIZING AN EVACUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT05406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750387-1125
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751163/aaaaceml.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 7787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, AL, MA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006